

FIELD NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF COASTAL ARAKAN AND THE FOOTHILLS OF THE YOMAS.

BY

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These notes have been compiled during the Arakan campaigns of 1943 to 1945.

Subspecific names have not been added as we were unable to secure a series for comparison, owing to lack of suitable ammunition. Doubtful species, however, were shot for identification.

These notes deal with the sandy beaches, tidal waterways, mangrove swamps, scrub-covered islands, the villages and paddy-fields, and the foothills up to 2,000 ft. which rise from the coastal region often almost directly, and are covered with a variety of dense mixed tropical jungle, with scrub, or with pure bamboo jungle.

In the dry season, December to May, fresh water is very scarce and local, and practically all the hill streams are dry. In the monsoon, June to November, the rainfall is very heavy, averaging some 190 inches.

It is hoped that these notes may provide a foundation for a more critical study of the avifauna of Arakan at some future date, and may prove of value in the preparation of the second edition of the Birds of Burma.

ORDER : *PASSERES*.

FAMILY : *CORVIDAE*.

***Corvus macrorhynchos*.** Jungle Crow.

Common.

***C. splendens*.** House Crow.

Common about the village and tidal waters. Indian and Burmese races are found together in North Ramree Island. Akyab, Myebon, and Baronga Island. South of this area only the Burmese race is found.

***Cissa chinensis*.** Green Magpie.

Foothills. One in May, blue being dominant colour. One in November in fresh green plumage in Ngakyedauk Pass.

Dendrocitta vagabunda. Indian Tree Pie.

Common in the low ground.

Garrulus leucotis. Burmese Jay.

Sparsely distributed in the jungles North and South of Ruywa.

FAMILY : TIMALIIDAE.

Garrulax pectoralis. Black-gorgetted Laughing Thrush.

Local in hill jungle, and even at sea level in winter.

Pellorneum ruficeps. Spotted Babbler.

Common in open lower jungle.

Argya earlii. Striated Babbler.

Old grassy rice furrows. Scarce.

A. longirostris. Slender-billed Babbler.

Fairly common in low ground.

Timalia pileata. Red-capped Babbler.

Local in foothills. Found nesting in June.

Chrysomma sinensis. Yellow-eyed Babbler.

Local in scrub jungle near the coast, and in patches of open country out of cultivation.

Mixornis rubricapilla. Yellow-breasted Babbler.

Common in the jungle.

Pomatorhinus hypoleucus. Arakan Scimitar Babbler.

Scarce. Foothills of Mayu Range in bamboo.

Aegithina tiphia. The Iora.

Common in open jungle and round camps.

Chloropsis jerdoni. Jerdon's Chloropsis.

Very uncommon. Low ground villages only in North Arakan.

C. aurifrons. Gold-fronted Chloropsis.

Common in foothills and round camps. This is the common Chloropsis of Arakan.

C. cochinchinensis. Burmese Chloropsis.

Uncommon. None seen North of Tamandu on Dalet Chaung.

FAMILY : PYCNONOTIDAE.

Molpastes cafer. Red-vented Bulbul.

Very common.

Otocompsa jocosa. Red-whiskered Bulbul.

Very common.

O. flaviventris. Black-crested Yellow Bulbul.

Common in the foothills.

Iole virescens. Olive Bulbul.

Occurs in the thick Yoma jungle. Very secretive.

Alcurus leucogrammicus. Striated Green Bulbul.

Apparently locally migrant as not observed in April-October. One 5 January. One 7 March.

Microtarsus atriceps. Black-headed Bulbul.

Rare winter visitor.

Microscelis psaroides. Black Bulbul.

Apparently a winter visitor from the higher hills. Latest 21 March.

Criniger flaveolus. White-throated Bulbul.

Sparsely distributed along the coastal hill jungles, and in winter along the coastal belt. Seen in parties of up to 10.

FAMILY: TURDIDAE.

Saxicola caprata. Pied Bushchat.

Common round the coastal villages.

S. torquata. Stonechat.

Winter visitor to the coastal strip October-March.

Enicurus immaculatus. Black-backed Forktail.

Common. The only Forktail seen.

Calliope calliope. Rubythroat.

Winter visitor. Leaves in early March.

Copsychus saularis. Magpie Robin.

Very common.

Kittacincla malabarica. Shama.

Uncommon, but occurs as its song has been heard on one or two occasions, and one observed 25 October. Probably nesting in June and July.

Monticola cinclorhyncha. Blue-headed Rock Thrush.

Sparse winter visitor. Earliest 24 September. Latest 24 April.

M. solitaria. Eastern Blue Rock Thrush.

Earliest 1 October, latest 5 May. Common in winter.

Miyophonus caeruleus. Whistling Thrush.

Winter visitor to the hill streams, being locally migrant as they dry up.

Geokichla citrina. Orange-headed Ground Thrush.

One in a bamboo thicket 12 March. Another 10 February.

FAMILY: MUSCICAPIDAE.

Muscicapa parva. Red-breasted Flycatcher.

Very common in winter. First arrival 30 September. Latest 30 April.

Muscicapula rubeculoides. Blue-throated Flycatcher.

Common winter visitor to the foothills.

Culicicapa ceylonensis. Grey-headed Flycatcher.

Winter visitor in fair numbers to the thicker jungle from the higher hills.

Alseonax latirostris. Brown Flycatcher.

Sparsely distributed in the heavier jungle.

Hemipus picatus. Pied Shrike.

One 12 November, Mayu.

Rhipidura aureola. White-browed Fantail Flycatcher.

Sparsely distributed about village gardens.

Hypothymis azurea. Black-naped Flycatcher.

Sparsely distributed in the bamboo and thicker shadier jungles.

Tchitra paradisi. Paradise Flycatcher.

On winter passage from Duars. Chestnut phase of plumage usual, but one in white phase seen 10 November.

FAMILY : LANIIDAE.

Lanius cristatus. Brown Shrike.

Very common in winter. First arrivals 6 September. Latest 4 May.

L. nepalensis. Grey-backed Shrike.

Winter only.

L. nasutus. Black-headed Shrike.

One 31 October. One 15 November in foothills.

L. colluroides. Burmese Shrike.

Winter visitor from 3 October to foothills.

Tephrodornis pondicerianus. Wood-Shrike.

Sparsely distributed around villages. One 7 July. A pair 5 January.

FAMILY : CAMPEPHAGIDAE.

Pericrocotus roseus. Rosy Minivet.

Several flocks seen and specimens secured in March and April.

P. peregrinus. Little Minivet.

A few flocks observed in the open jungles in October contained only males. Breeds in the Casuarina trees on the coast north of Akyab and at Teknaf. Also seen at Ruywa.

P. speciosus. Scarlet Minivet.

A pair on the Mayu Range 7 November. Resident.

Lalage sykesi. Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike.

Winter visitor in small numbers arriving about mid-October, leaving in April.

Graucalus novaehollandiae. Large Cuckoo-shrike.

Common among the wood oil trees in the lower jungles.

FAMILY : ARTAMIDAE.

Artamus fuscus. Ashy Swallow-shrike.

Common.

FAMILY : DICRURIDAE.

Dicrurus macrocercus. King Crow.

Common in the North. Scarce and local South of Maungdaw.

D. leucophæus. Ashy Drongo.

Pair 12 October. One 21 January. Sparse winter visitor.

Chaptia aenea. Bronzed Drongo.

Thick jungle. Very local, but usually to be seen in same area.

Dissemurus paradiseus. Large Racket-tailed Drongo.

Common in deciduous jungle.

Bhringa remifer. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo.

Less common than the last named.

Chibia hottentotta. Hair-crested Drongo.

The most common of all the Drongos and well distributed.

FAMILY : SYLVIDAE.

Acrocephalus stentoreus. Great Reed Warbler.

Local winter visitor to suitable reed-beds and clumps of pine-apple. In full song, 1 May at Akyab.

A. agricola. Paddyfield Warbler.

Rather scarce. Local winter visitor.

A. dumetorum. Blyth's Reed Warbler.

As above.

Megalurus palustris. Striated Marsh Warbler.

Common in the coastal belt from about 10 October to 15 April.

Orthotomus sutorius. Tailor Bird.

Common.

Franklinia gracilis. Franklin's Wren-warbler.

Common in scrub jungle.

Prinia flaviventris. Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler.

Common in coastal plain in winter.

Cisticola juncidis. The Streaked Fantail Warbler.

Fairly common in the coastal plain. Resident.

Horeites brunifrons. Rufus-capped Bush Warbler.

Common winter visitor to scrub jungle.

Phylloscopus fuscatus. Dusky willow warbler.

Common in winter in the coastal swamps.

FAMILY : IRENIDAE.

Irena puella. Fairy Bluebird.

Small parties of 5 or 6 seen on several occasions, in the tall trees in thick mixed jungle. Common in the Mayu Range.

FAMILY : ORIOLIDAE.

Oriolus xanthornus. Black-headed Oriole.

Common.

O. chinensis. Black-naped Oriole.

One 15 March. Pair nesting April in Yoma foothills. Uncommon and not seen in the coastal belt. One at Akyab 12 April.

FAMILY : GRACULIDAE.

Gracula religiosa. Indian Grackle.

Fairly common where there are high trees in the open.

FAMILY : STURNIDAE.

Aplonis panayensis. Glossy Stare.

Very local. Nests in old holes of woodpeckers in May. One found at sea-level and watched till young hatched.

Sturnia malabarica. Grey-headed Myna.

Common.

Acridotheres tristis. Common Myna.

Very common.

Æthlopsar fuscus. Jungle Myna.

Very common.

Sturnopastor contra. Pied Myna.

Very common.

Gracupica burmanicus. Jerdon's Myna.

Flock of 20, 15 October in foothills.

FAMILY : PLOCEIDAE.

Ploceus infortunatus. Eastern Weaver Bird.

Common.

P. manyar. Striated Weaver Bird.

Very local in reed-beds, but occurs in suitable localities and breeds.

Lonchura punctulata. Spotted Munia.

Winter visitor in small flocks.

L. striata. Striated Munia.

Common in flocks in the foothills April-January and in late September. Absent in the monsoon and in winter.

L. atricapilla. Chestnut-bellied Munia.

Very common. Nest with eggs 22 November shows this species is not necessarily a pre-monsoon nester.

FAMILY : FRINGILLIDAE.

Passer domesticus. House Sparrow.

Common around villages.

P. flaveolus. Pegu House Sparrow.

Very local. Observed on the islands off the coast at Ruywa in March, and one cock watched near Ruywa on the mainland.

Emberiza aureola. Yellow-breasted Bunting.

Singly and in flocks in winter and on passage.

FAMILY : HIRUNDINIDAE.

Riparia riparia. Eastern Sand-Martin.

A few in winter only.

R. paludicola. Indian Sand-Martin.

Common.

Hirundo rustica. Eastern Swallow.

Very common in winter.

H. tytleri. Tytler's Swallow.

Common in winter.

H. daurica. Red-rumped Swallow.

Common in winter.

H. smithii. Wire-tailed Swallow.

Fairly common in winter.

FAMILY : MOTACILLIDAE.

Dendronanthus indicus. Forest Wagtail.

Sparsely distributed in the thicker jungle.

Motacilla alba. White Wagtail.

Common in winter.

M. cinerea. Grey Wagtail.

Common in winter.

M. flava thunbergi. Grey-headed Yellow Wagtail.

A few on passage singly. All in April.

M. flava beema. Yellow Wagtail.

One 20 April. One 24 April. One 21 November.

M. citreola. Yellow-headed Wagtail.

One 14 May. Fairly common on passage, especially in April, and spends the winter.

Anthus rufulus. Indian Pipit.

Common and resident.

A. hodgsoni. Indian Tree-Pipit.

Common winter visitor.

A. richardi. Richard's Pipit.

Common winter visitor.

A. cervinus. Red-throated Pipit.

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Uncommon.

FAMILY : ALAUDIDAE.

Alauda galgula. Indian Skylark.

Rather scarce and locally migratory in the wet season.

Mirafra assamica. Bengal Bush-Lark.

Very common in the low ground.

FAMILY : ZOSTEROPIDAE.

Zosterops palpebrosa. White-eye.

Rather local; not common. Coastal plain and edge of foothills.

FAMILY : NECTARINIDAE.

Ginnyris asiaticus. Purple Sunbird.

Fairly common. Nests in March-April in coastal plain.

C. zeylonicus. Purple-rumped Sunbird.

Fairly common.

C. flammaxillaris. Yellow-breasted Sunbird.

Fairly common on the coastal plain south of Akyab.

C. brasiliانا. Van Hasselt's Sunbird.

Very local, but haunts same places. Smythies' description does not do this lovely bird justice.

Æthopyga siparaja. Yellow-backed Sunbird.

The most common Sunbird.

Anthreptes malaccensis. Brown-throated Sunbird.

Not common. Observed in Mar. near Myebon, and two other records.

Arachnothera longirostra Little Spider-Hunter.

Common in the foothills.

FAMILY DICAÆIDAE.

Dicaeum erythrorhynchos. Tickell's Flower-pecker.

Not common. A few pairs seen in May in gardens.

D. chrysorrheum. Yellow-vented Flower-pecker.

Very local. Hill jungles. The race here appears to have dark streaks on breast and not the dark line described by Smythies.

D. cruentatum. Scarlet-backed Flower-pecker.

Common.

D. trigonostigma. Orange-bellied Flower-pecker.

Three pairs in March near Ruywa.

D. concolor. Plain-coloured Flower-pecker.

Common on the coastal islands from Myebon to Ruywa. Not seen elsewhere.

FAMILY : PITTIDAE.

Pitta nipalensis. Blue-naped Pitta.

Very shy though often heard. One obtained in Mayu Range in Oct. was definitely this species.

ORDER : PICI.

FAMILY : PICIDAE.

Picus canus. Black-naped Green Woodpecker.

Fairly common locally.

Dryobates mahrattensis. Mahratta Woodpecker.

Fairly common.

D. macei. Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker.

The race here has no white underparts. It is fairly common, especially at Akyab.

D. analis. Siamese Pied Woodpecker.

Lower hills. Scarce in Mayu Range.

Brachypternus benghalensis. Golden-backed Woodpecker.

Common.

Chrysophlegma flavinucha. Large Yellow-naped Woodpecker.

Lower hill jungles. No red on crown.

Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus. Tickell's Golden-backed Woodpecker.

Less common than the former.

Mulleripicus pulverulentus. Great Slaty Woodpecker.

Sparsely distributed in the jungle, but its distinctive cry is not uncommon.

Sasia ochracea. Rufous Piculet.

Common locally in the low ground.

Jynx torquilla. Wryneck.

One 27 Sep., one 25 Nov. Mayu Peninsula.

FAMILY : CAPITONIDAE.

Cyanops viridis. Lineated Barbet.

Common in the low ground.

C. asiatica. Blue-throated Barbet.

Common in the hills.

C. duvaucellii. Blue-eared Barbet.

Fairly common in hill jungle.

Xantholaema haemacephala. Coppersmith.

Very local and scarce except at Akyab.

ORDER : COCCYGES

FAMILY : CUCULIDAE.

Cuculus micropterus. Indian Cuckoo.

Common in winter. Earliest 7 Oct. Heard in April.

Hierococcyx varius. Common Hawk-Cuckoo.

Less common in winter. Heard in April.

Cacomantis merulinus. Plaintive Cuckoo.

Sparsely resident. All had lower parts russet, white.

Clamator jacobinus. Pied Crested Cuckoo.

One 25 May 1944.

C. coromandus. Red-winged Crested Cuckoo.

Fairly common in winter.

Eudynamis scolopaceus. Koel.

Scarce and local.

Rhopodytes tristis. Large Green-billed Malkoha.

Fairly common.

Centropus sinensis. Crow Pheasant.

Common.

ORDER : PSITTACI.

FAMILY : PSITTACIDAE.

Psittacula eupatria. Large Parakeet.

Scarce and local.

P. krameri. Green Parakeet.

Very common.

P. cyanocephala. Blossom-headed Parakeet.

Generally scarce and locally migratory, but very common in Mar. and Apr. at Ruywa.

P. fasciatus. Orange-breasted Parakeet.

The most common after the Green Parakeet.

Loriculus vernalis. Loriquet.

Common.

ORDER : ANISODACTYLI.

FAMILY : CORACIADAE.

Coracias benghalensis. Roller.

One in thick jungle Oct,

Eurystomus orientalis. Broad-billed Roller.

Common in open woodland.

FAMILY : MEROPIDAE.

Merops orientalis. Green Bee-eater.

Very common.

M. superciliosus. Blue-tailed Bee-eater.

Breeds in May and June. Locally migratory. Family party in Oct. in Kalapanzin Valley. Very common at Akyab in April.

M. leschenaulti. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater.

Resident but locally migratory.

Melittophagus erythrocephalus. Bronze-capped Bee-eater.

Appears to be a winter visitor.

Bucia athertoni. Blue-bearded Bee-eater.

Scarce. Nests in May. Resident and found nesting on summit of Mayu Range at 1,850 ft. in Oct.

FAMILY : ALCEDINIDAE.

Ceryle rudis. Pied Kingfisher.

Fairly common on the tidal chaungs and estuaries.

Alcedo atthis. Common Kingfisher.

Very common.

Ramphalcyon capensis. Stork-billed Kingfisher.

Scarce and confined to flooded rice fields and inland pools.

R. amauroptera. Brown-winged Kingfisher.

Locally distributed in tidal chaungs and swamps Not north of Dalet Chaung, and never noted at fresh water.

Halcyon smyrnensis. White-breasted Kingfisher.

Very common.

H. chloris. White-collared Kingfisher.

Common in tidal chaungs.

H. pileata. Black-capped Kingfisher.

Common in tidal chaungs.

FAMILY : BUCEROTIDAE.

Dichoceros bicornis. Great Hornbill.

Fairly common.

Anthracoceros coronatus. Pied Hornbill.

Rather rare.

FAMILY : UPUPIDAE.

Upupa epops. Indian Hoopoe.

Fairly common on passage and in winter. Absent in the monsoon.

ORDER : *MACROCHIRES*.FAMILY : *MICROPODIDAE*.

***Micropus affinis*.** Indian Swift.

Fairly common in winter.

***Cypsiurus parvus batassiensis*.** Eastern Palm Swift.

Fairly common in winter.

***Chaetura gigantea*.** Brown-throated Spinetail.

Flocks in thick jungle on Mayu Range.

FAMILY : *CAPRIMULGIDAE*.

***Caprimulgus asiaticus*.** Indian Nightjar.

Uncommon. I have only heard it in April and early May when it utters a 'Tuk-tuk-tuk-tuk-chirrh !'

***C. macrurus*.** Horsfield's Nightjar.

Its monotonous 'Chunk-chunk' is a very common sound Mar-May. Resident.

***Lyncornis macrotis*.** Great-eared Nightjar.

One pair observed at dusk for several evenings in Mar. at Ruywa, looking rather like harriers, and uttering a call on the wing like 'Pee-wheooo-wheooo-wheooo' repeated a variable number of times, followed by a protracted quavering whistle ending in a cadence. This was varied by a repetition of 'Hee-ho-hee-ho-hee-ho,' the 'ho' being a semitone lower than the 'hee.' Also heard at Myebon in Feb.

ORDER : *STRIGES*.FAMILY : *STRIGIDAE*.

***Strix ocellatum*.** Mottled Wood Owl.

Common.

***Bubo ketupa*.** Brown Fish Owl.

Sparsely distributed, but not uncommon.

***B. coromandus*.** Dusky Eagle Owl.

Often heard and seen sitting on the tracks at night.

***Otus sunia*.** Burmese Scops Owl.

'Tonk tonk ka-tonk' is the commonest owl sound in Arakan.

***O. bakkamoena*.** Collared Scops Owl.

Appears scarce and local. Nests in Apr. Utters a dismal 'whoow' at intervals.

***O. spilocephalus*.** Eastern Spotted Scops Owl.

Fairly common. Utters a double whistle which is usually answered after an interval.

***Athene brama*.** Spotted Owlet.

Common in the low ground.

***Glaucidium radiatum*.** Jungle Owlet.

Fairly common in the jungles and high open forest.

ORDER : ACCIPITRES.

FAMILY : PANDIONIDAE.

Pandion haliaetus. Osprey.

A straggler in small numbers singly, in winter, to River Nat. Earliest
27 August.

FAMILY : VULTURIDAE.

Gyps indicus. Long-billed Vulture.

Very common.

Pseudogyps bengalensis. White-backed Vulture.

Scarce and appears migratory. It is absent May to Oct.

Sarcogyps calvus. King Vulture.

Common.

FAMILY : FALCONIDAE.

Aquila clanga. Greater Spotted Eagle.

Several observed in winter. Very tame and often allowed an approach to
10-15 yds.

Circaetus ferox. Short-toed Eagle.

One obtained Myebon in Jan.

Spliornis cheela. Crested Serpent Eagle.

Common.

Haliaeetus leucoryphus. Pallas's Fishing Eagle.

Local and uncommon.

H. leucogaster. White-bellied Sea Eagle.

Common.

Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus. Large Grey-headed Fishing Eagle.

Occasionally seen in winter.

Haliastur indus. Brahminy Kite.

Common.

Milvus migrans govinda. Pariah Kite.

Common but very few remain in the monsoon.

Elanus caeruleus. Black-winged Kite.

Very tame. Hovers like a kestrel. Winter visitor to Akyab.

Circus macrourus. Pale Harrier.

Common winter visitor. Arrives Nov.

C. melanoleucus. Pied Harrier.

Arrives 1 Oct. Fairly common in the coastal plain and islands.

C. aeruginosus. Marsh Harrier.

Common winter visitor.

Astur badius. Shikra.

Common.

Falco peregrinus. Peregrine Falcon.

Winter visitor in small numbers. Latest 4 Apr.

Falco severus. Hobby.

Winter straggler. Two observed.

F. tinnunculus. Kestrel.

Winter visitor in some numbers to Mayu Valley. Scarce elsewhere.

ORDER : COLUMBAE.

FAMILY : COLUMBIDAE.

Crocopus phoenicopterus. Common Green Pigeon.

Common in flocks.

Treron pompadora. Ashy-headed Green Pigeon.

Common in the Yomas. A few shot at Ruywa.

T. bicincta. Orange-breasted Green Pigeon.

Common in flocks. The most common of all.

T. curvirostra. Thick-billed Green Pigeon.

Scarce.

Ducula acnea. Green Imperial Pigeon.

Usually seen in pairs. Fairly common.

Chalcophaps indica. Emerald Dove.

Common in the shadiest jungle.

Columba livia. Blue Rock Pigeon.

Rather scarce and local.

Alsocomus puniceus. Purple Woodpigeon.

One 17 Nov. and one 5 Dec. in thick tree jungle. Very shy.

Streptopelia risoria. Ring Dove.

Appears very scarce and local. Absent in the monsoon. One shot at Ruywa in Mar. A few seen at Maungdaw in Feb.

S. orientalis. Rufus Turtle Dove.

Scarce and local. A few shot at Akyab in Jan.

S. chinensis. Spotted Dove.

Very common.

Oenopopella tranquebarica. Red Turtle Dove.

Common locally. Often in large flocks till May. Absent in the monsoon.

ORDER : GALLINAE.

FAMILY : PHASIANIDAE.

Gallus gallus. Red Jungle Fowl.

Common everywhere.

Gennaecus horsfieldi. Black-breasted Khalij.

Fairly common even at sea level.

Arborophila rufogularis. Arakan Hill Partridge.

A few were reported in the lower Yomas.

Excalfactoria chinensis. Blue-breasted Quail.

Common singly.

ORDER : GRALLAE.

FAMILY : RALLIDAE.

Amaurornis akool. Brown Crake.

Fairly common.

A. fuscus. Ruddy Crake.

Common.

A. phoenicurus. White-breasted Waterhen.

Common.

Gallinula chloropus. Waterhen.

Very local.

Gallicrex cinerea. Water Cock.

Scarce and very shy.

Porphyrio poliocephalus. Purple Coot.

Two or three at Royal Lake Akyab in winter.

FAMILY : GRUIDAE.

Grus grus. Common Crane.

Two 4 Nov. Three 26 Mar.

ORDER : LIMICOLAE.

FAMILY : GLAREOLIDAE.

Glareola pratincola. Large Indian Pratincole.

Flock 27 Oct. Common and locally migrant. Breeds early among the dunes in Mar. and Apr. on Ramree and at Akyab.

FAMILY : JACANIDAE.

Metopidius indicus. Bronze-winged Jacana.

Common in suitable spots.

Hydrophasianus chirurgus. Pheasant-tailed Jacana.

Very scarce and local.

FAMILY : ROSTRATULIDAE.

Rostratula benghalensis. Painted Snipe.

Very local. Resident.

FAMILY : BURHINIDAE.

Burhinus oedicnemus. Stone Curlew.

Ramree and Akyab in the dry west coast scrub. Rare and absent in the monsoon.

FAMILY : CHARADRIIDAE.

Arenaria interpres. Turnstone.

Large flocks on the coast on passage. Winter visitor to Ramree.

Squatarola squatarola. Grey Plover.

Scarce winter visitor. A pair in breeding plumage at Ramree 30 Apr.

Haematopus ostralegus. Oystercatcher.

A few each winter Akyab, St. Martin's Island, Ramree.

Charadrius alexandrinus. Kentish Plover.

Scarce. One or two flocks which arrive in Nov. and leave in Mar. Latest 4 Apr.

C. dubius. Little Ringed Plover.

Common.

C. mongolus. Lesser Sand Plover.

Very common on the coast and on the mud flats in winter.

C. leschenaultii. Large Sand Plover.

Common winter visitor.

Pluvialis dominica. Golden Plover.

Very common winter visitor. Starts to arrive 25 Aug. Leaves in Apr. Latest 8 May.

Hoplopterus duvaucellii. Indian Spur-winged Plover.

An odd pair or single bird usually seen where there are sand banks on the river.

Lobivanellus indicus. Red-wattled Lapwing.

Common.

Microsarcops cinereus. Grey-headed Lapwing.

Small parties late Oct. Winter visitor till Apr.

Numenius arquata. Curlew.

Common winter visitor. Arrives Sep. Leaves as late as May.

N. phaeopus. Whimbrel.

Common. Arrives later than the last, and leaves earlier.

Limosa limosa. Black-tailed Godwit.

Several shot last week in Apr, feeding on paddy at Akyab.

Terekia cinereus. Terek Sandpiper.

Common. Flocks in Apr. on the coast. Most of those shot in Jan.-Apr. had drab legs, but some had orange.

Tringa ochropus. Green Sandpiper.

Common. An early winter arrival.

T. stagnatilis. Marsh Sandpiper.

Common winter visitor.

T. hypoleucus. Common Sandpiper.

Very common in winter. Only absent from May to Aug.

T. glareola. Wood Sandpiper.

Very common in winter, and numbers pass through up to early May.

T. totanus. Redshank.

Common. An early winter arrival in small flocks. Stays into May.

T. erythropus. Spotted Redshank.

One 15 January. One 12 March on the coast.

T. nebularia. Greenshank.

Common singly and in pairs. An early winter arrival.

Erolia minuta. Little Stint.

Common. A late winter arrival, not being seen before November. Leaves in late April and early May.

E. temminckii. Temminck's Stint.

One 15 November.

Calidris tenuirostris. Eastern Knot.

Scarce winter visitor to the coast.

Scolopax rusticola. Woodcock.

Three together on 16 March on Ramree.

Capella gallinago. Common Snipe.

Common winter visitor, but practically none are shot before 1 November or after 1 April. In October out of 54 shot 48 were *stenura* and only 6 *gallinago*. In November out of 51 shot 48 were *gallinago* and 3 *stenura*.

C. stenura. Pintail Snipe.

Very common. An early winter arrival, appearing in small numbers about 15 August and gradually increasing till November. Stragglers still seen 15 May.

ORDER : GAVIAE.

FAMILY : LARIDAE.

Larus ichthyaetus. Great Black-headed Gull.

Often an odd one about the River Naf in winter. 20 seen near Foul Point in January. Small parties seen near Ramree and Baronga Island from time to time.

L. brunelcephalus. Brown-headed Gull.

Very common winter visitor but a late arrival. November to Many.

Chlidonias hybrida. Whiskered Tern.

A few on passage only.

Gelochelidon nilotica. Gull-billed Tern.

Common singly on the River Naf in winter only.

Sterna aurantia. Common River Tern.

Common, but absent September and October when presumably it is breeding.

S. bergii. Large Crested Tern.

Common. Breeds on St. Martin's Island.

S. albifrons. Little Tern.

One 10 April. One 6 December. Three 3 April.

ORDER : STEGANOPODES.

FAMILY : PELECANIDAE.

Pelecanus roseus. Spotted-billed Pelican.

Odd ones usually frequent the River Naf all the year round.

FAMILY PHALACROCORACIDAE.

Phalacrocorax carbo. Large Cormorant.

One shot 2 November. One 29 April. No others seen.

P. niger. Little Cormorant.

Common. Breeds in August and September.

Anhinga melanogaster. Indian Darter.

Very uncommon in spite of suitable localities.

ORDER : HERODIONES.

FAMILY : IBIDIDAE.

Threskiornis melanocephalus. White Ibis.

Common.

Pseudibis papillosus. Black Ibis.

Uncommon. I know of only one small nesting colony near Tumbru.

FAMILY : PLATALEIDAE.

Platalea leucorodia. Spoonbill.

Stragglers in winter only. One 5 January. One 21 Jan.

FAMILY : CICONIDAE.

Dissoura episcopus. White-necked Stork.

Common in small parties and singly.

Xenorhynchus asiaticus. Black-necked Stork.

Large flocks pass over going South in October. Stragglers remain in winter.

Leptoptilos dubius. Adjutant.

Scarce. Stragglers in winter.

L. javanicus. Lesser Adjutant.

Common in winter.

Ibis leucocephalus. Painted Stork.

Usually one or two about the River Naf and Kaladan delta in autumn and spring.

Anastomus oscitans. Open-bill Stork.

A flock of 40 going South 2 November over Maungdaw. Odd ones seen in winter.

FAMILY : ARDEIDAE.

Ardea purpurea. Purple Heron.

Common in the mangrove swamps in winter.

A. cinerea. Common Grey Heron.

Winter visitor arriving November.

A. sumatrana. Dusky Green Heron.

Fairly common in the creeks in mangrove swamps.

Egretta alba. Large Egret.

Common.

E. intermedia. Smaller Egret.

Scarce.

E. garzetta. Little Egret.

Very common.

Bubulcus ibis. Cattle Egret.

Rather scarce and local. Parties arrive about 1 October and winter, leaving in April.

Demiegretta asha. Reef Heron.

Grey phase usual but one of white variety seen. Common on the Dalet Chaung.

Ardeola grayi. Paddy Bird.

Very common.

Butorides striatus. Little Green Heron.

Haunts jungle streams in the Yoma foothills.

Nycticorax nycticorax. Night Heron.

Fairly common. Party of 20 disturbed from trees during the landing at Myebon in January. Also seen at Ruywa.

Ixobrychus sinensis. Yellow Bittern.

Very local, but resident and nests in September in reed-beds near the coast.

I. cinnamomeus. Chestnut Bittern.

Common in the coastal plain.

Dupetor flavicollis. Black Bittern.

Common in the coastal plain.

ORDER : ANSERES.

FAMILY : ANATIDAE.

Sarkidiornis melanotus. Nukta.

Very local. One 12 December Nhila.

Nettapus coromandelianus. Cotton Teal.

Fairly common in suitable spots.

Dendrocygna javanica. Lesser Whistling Teal.

Common in flocks of up to 40 birds.

D. fulva. Larger Whistling Teal.

Scarce. Usually seen in pairs.

Casarca ferruginea. Ruddy Sheldrake.

Fairly common winter visitor. Does not arrive till end of November.

Tadorna tadorna. Sheldrake.

One flock of 7 going South 2 November.

Anas penelope. Wigeon.

An erratic passage migrant only. Not seen 1943-44 but huge flocks seen flying North over Dalet Chaung in first half February 1945.

A. crecca. Common Teal.

Common November to April. First arrivals 10 October.

A. querquedula. Garganey.

Rather scarce winter visitor with Common Teal.

A. acuta. Pintail.

Enormous flocks arrive in December and leave early March. They frequent inaccessible mangrove swamps by day, and feed in the shallow weedy fresh water pools at night. Stragglers arrive from mid-October.

A. clypeata. Shoveller.

Winter visitor in small numbers.

Nyroca nyroca. White-eye.

N. baeri. Bayer's Pochard.

A fair number pass through on passage in November and December, and again in February and March. Those shot had dark brown head with a greenish sheen (*baeri*), but I have reports of the typical race too.

ORDER : PYGOPODES.

FAMILY PODICIPIDAE.

Podiceps ruficollis. Little Grebe.

Very common on the scanty fresh water pools along the coastal belt.



Christison, A. F. Philip et al. 1946. "Field Notes on the Birds of Coastal Arakan and the Foothills of the Yomas." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 46, 13–32.

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